

## Health Impact in CAR

On-screen graphic: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Logo, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

On-screen text: Central America

Emily Zielinski Gutierrez, DrPH, Director, CDC Central America Region: This is very much a region in transition, in public health. You have people who really do live in situations of intense poverty where they don't have access to hygiene, where they live very far from health facilities. Their ability to just meet their daily requirements is really, really difficult.

On the other side, you have people who are able to travel, able to afford a lot of consumer goods, you see a lot of business from the U.S.

Luis Arreaga, U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala: Every human being wants to be healthy. In a place like Guatemala, you have all kinds of potential threats communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases. Having CDC here, it buys us a lot of goodwill.

Zielinski Gutierrez: Any pathogen that might be in communities here has any number of ways in which it can actually become pretty quickly a threat to the U.S.

We cover Guatemala where our office is. We also work in Honduras and El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Belize and then also the Dominican Republic.

Nasim Farach, Regional Monitoring & Evaluation Advisor, CDC Central America Region: Our mandate is to support the Ministry of Health in what they do. We take that as a serious responsibility.

There is a sense of partnership with the CDC, there is a sense of technical respect for the CDC and there is a lot of openness to working with us. We basically help the ministries strengthen their capacity to respond to the people's needs.

Arreaga: A health threat anywhere is a health threat everywhere, and that the mission of CDC is to protect the United States against health, safety, and security threats whether they come from the United States or from abroad.

Zielinski Gutierrez: We, as Americans, need to care what happens in Central America the pathogens really don't care. They will move with people. They will move with trade, they will move with goods. If we're not paying attention to where we have vulnerabilities, we're always going to be playing catch-up.

On-screen text: To learn more about CDC's global health work, please visit [www.cdc.gov/globalhealth](http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth). Follow @CDCGlobal on social media: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr.